

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /106 W

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R 030933Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5685

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5779

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJ: ROKG CONSIDERATION OF LENIENCY TOWARD COURT-MARTIAL
PRISONERS

1. NCCC/K STAFF MEMBER TOLD EMBOFF THAT MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION YUN CHU-YONG HAD INVITED NCC/K GENERAL SECRETARY REV. KIM KWAN SUD TO HIS OFFICE LAST WEEK AND ASKED FOR CHURCH SUPPORT IN PUBLICIZING ABROAD ROKG LIFTING OF EMERGENCY MEASURES AND LIBERALIZATION OF INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. REPORTEDLY, REV. KIM AGREED CONDITIONALLY IF ROKG WOULD RELEASE PRISONERS SENTENCED BY EMERGENCY COURT MARTIAL.

2. MINISTER YUN REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THAT ROKG WOULD MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING PRISONERS PRIOR TO OPENING OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK, "UNLESS SOMETHING UNFORESEEN HAPPENS IN MEANTIME." THIS REPORT COULD NOT BE DIRECTLY CONFIRMED WITH REV. KIM WHO IS CURRENTLY IN HONG KONG ATTENDING REGIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING. HOWEVER, HE HAD ON AUG 24 TOLD EMBASSY OF SIMILAR SUGGESTION BY LOWER-LEVEL MCUI OFFICIAL.

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3. LAST WEEK PRIMIN'S SECRETARY HAD TOLD POL

COUNS THAT GRANT OF CLEMENCY OF COURT-MARTIAL PRISONERS WAS UNDER "CONSTANT REVIEW" AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. HE INDICATED THAT DECISION ON CLEMENCY WOULD PROBABLY BE BASED ON GOVERNMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF DOMESTIC SITUATION. IF GOVERNMENT CRITICS REMAIN QUIET, PRESIDENT PARK WOULD PROBABLY AGREE TO GESTURE OF LENIENCY. HOWEVER, PRIMIN'S SECRETARY CAUTIONED THAT, IF ANTI-GOVT AGITATION BEGINS, PRESIDENT WOULD ADOPT A FIRM, UNYIELDING POSITION, REFUSING AMNESTY.
ERICSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PENAL SYSTEM, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, EMERGENCY PLANNING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL05779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740244-0279
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740979/aaaacosg.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROKG CONSIDERATION OF LENIENCY TOWARD COURT-MARTIAL PRISONERS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS, (YUN CHU-YONG), (KIM KWAN SUD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005